

REMARKS

This communication is in response to the Official Action mailed June 21, 2006, setting forth a Restriction Requirement in the above-identified application. A petition for a one-month extension of the term for response, to and including August 21, 2006, is transmitted herewith.

In the Official Action, the Examiner required restriction to one of the following inventions under 35 U.S.C. § 121:

I. Claims 1-6, drawn to drawn to a catheter with contrast medium;

II. Claims 7-10, drawn to a method of use for a catheter with a contract medium;

III. Claims 11-28, drawn to a catheter with a steering mechanism;

IV. Claims 29-39, drawn to a method of ultrasound cardiac ablation in the heart;

V. Claims 40-49, drawn to an ultrasound emitted with a piezoelectric element and surrounding balloon on a catheter;

VI. Claims 54-57, drawn to methods of cardiac ultrasound ablation;

VII. Claims 50-53 and 58-67, drawn to a balloon catheter with expandible and reinforcing structures;

VIII. Claims 68-76, drawn to an inflatable structure with ultrasonic emitter and exit window; and

IX. Claims 77-82, drawn to an ultrasound apparatus with a Fresnel lens.

In response, Applicants hereby elect the invention of Group II, corresponding to claims 7-10. Applicants reserve the right to file a divisional application corresponding to the non-elected claims.

The elected claims have been amended to more clearly point out certain aspects of the invention. Claim 7 has been amended to include the recitation of obtaining images formerly set forth in claim 8, which has now been canceled, and to point out that the images are used to visualize the position of the ablation device relative to the cardiac structure, as exemplified for example at paragraphs 0062, 0063, and 0065 of the specification. The dependency of claims 9 and 10 have been changed.

New claims 83-87, dependent from elected claim 7, have been added. New claim 83 is supported, for example, by specification paragraph 0061, whereas new claims 84-87 inclusive are supported by paragraph 0065 of the specification.

New claim 88 is supported, for example, by paragraphs 0007 and 0063 of the specification.

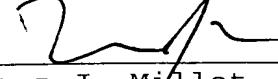
The Examiner's attention is respectfully directed to U.S. Patent Nos. 5,938,660 and 6,251,109 of record. Note column 9, line 57 to column 10, line 63 of the '660 reference; and column 8, lines 15-18, as well as column 9, lines 12-14, and lines 34-40 in the '109 reference. Both of these references inject contrast medium distal to an ablation device simply to confirm that the pulmonary vein has been fully sealed, and do not suggest use of the injected contrast medium to visualize the position of the ablation device relative to the cardiac structure.

The non-elected claims have been canceled without prejudice to applicant's right to pursue the non-elected claims in one or more divisional applications. Favorable action on the merits and allowance of all claims in the application are earnestly solicited.

In the event any fee is due in connection with the present response, the Examiner is authorized to charge Applicant's Deposit Account No. 12-1095 therefor.

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Respectfully submitted,

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